

United States Postal Service

§ 952.7

§ 952.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service (See § 952.26) pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 952.2 Scope of rules.

These rules of practice shall be applicable in all formal proceedings before the Postal Service, 39 U.S.C. 3005, including such cases instituted under prior rules of practice pertaining to these or predecessor statutes, unless timely shown to be prejudicial to the respondent.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987]

§ 952.3 Informal dispositions.

These rules do not preclude the disposition of any matter by agreement between the parties either before or after the filing of a complaint when time, the nature of the proceeding, and the public interest permit.

§ 952.4 Office business hours.

The offices of the officials mentioned in these rules are located at 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201-3078, and are open Monday through Friday except holidays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

[63 FR 66050, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 952.5 Complaints.

When the General Counsel of the Postal Service or his designated representative believes that a person is using the mails in a manner requiring formal administrative action under 39 U.S.C. 3005, he shall prepare and file with the Recorder a complaint which names the person involved; states the name, address and telephone number of the attorney representing Complainant; states the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the proceeding is initiated; states the facts in a manner sufficient to enable the person named therein to make answer thereto; and requests the issuance of an appropriate order or orders and/or the assessment of civil penalties. Complainant shall attach to the complaint a copy of the order or orders requested which may, at any time during the pro-

ceedings, be modified. The person named in the complaint shall be known as the "Respondent", and the General Counsel shall be known as the "Complainant."

The term "person" (1 U.S.C. 1) shall include any name, address, number or other designation under or by use of which the Respondent seeks remittances of money or property through the mail.

[48 FR 55126, Dec. 9, 1983, as amended at 65 FR 32027, May 22, 2000]

§ 952.6 Interim impounding.

In preparation for or during the pendency of a proceeding initiated under 39 U.S.C. 3005, mail addressed to a respondent may be impounded upon obtaining an appropriate order from a U.S. District Court, as provided in 39 U.S.C. 3007.

§ 952.7 Notice of answer and hearing.

(a) When a complaint is filed against a Respondent whose mailing address is within the United States, the Recorder shall issue a notice of answer and hearing stating the date for filing an answer which shall not exceed 15 days from the service of the complaint, the time and place of the hearing and a reference to the effect of failure to file an answer or appear at the hearing. (See §§ 952.10 and 952.11.) Whenever practicable, the hearing date shall be within 30 days of the date of the notice.

(b) Where a complaint is filed against a Respondent whose mailing address is not within the United States, the Judicial Officer shall review the complaint and any supporting information and determine whether a prima facie showing has been made that Respondent is engaged in conduct warranting issuance of the orders authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3005(a) and/or the assessment of civil penalties authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3012. Where he concludes that a prima facie showing has not been made he shall dismiss the complaint. Where he concludes that a prima facie showing has been made, he shall issue a tentative decision and orders which: set forth findings of fact and conclusions of law; direct Respondent to cease and desist from engaging in conduct warranting the issuance of an order authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3005(a); direct